

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

OF THE ARTICLES OF A

CHARTER

FOR THE

UNIVERSITY TO HAVE ITS SEAT  
IN BELFAST.



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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

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1908.



**PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF THE ARTICLES OF  
A CHARTER FOR THE UNIVERSITY TO  
HAVE ITS SEAT IN BELFAST.**

**I.—FOUNDATION OF THE UNIVERSITY.**

There shall be, and there is hereby, constituted and founded a University having its seat in Belfast, and bearing the name of the \_\_\_\_\_, by which name the Chancellor and other members of the University for the time being shall be, and are hereby constituted, one body corporate, with perpetual succession and a common seal, and with power, without any further license in mortmain, to take, purchase, and hold, and also to sell, grant, exchange, demise, and otherwise dispose of real and personal property.

Notwithstanding anything in this Our Charter, the University shall not at any time hold real property in Our United Kingdom exceeding the annual value of £50,000 (according to the value of such property at the time of its acquisition) over and above the value of any site, buildings, and hereditaments used and occupied for the immediate purposes of the University.

**II.—AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS.**

The University may admit to affiliation to itself other colleges or institutions or branches or departments thereof, and may withdraw such affiliation at any time.

Provided that the University shall not affiliate to itself any institution or any part thereof unless the University is satisfied, in manner to be provided by the Statutes, as to the general character and financial position of the institution as a whole, the adequacy in numbers and qualifications of its teaching staff, the University standard of the teaching, the adequate provision of laboratories and other appliances necessary for giving instruction in the subjects in respect of which affiliation is contemplated, the conditions as to age and attainments on which students are admitted, the number of students proceeding or likely to proceed to a University Degree, and the relations of the institution to any other University.

**III.—POWERS OF THE UNIVERSITY.**

The University shall have the powers following:—

- (1) To grant and confer Degrees and other academic distinctions in accordance with the provisions of this Our Charter;
- (2) To grant Diplomas or Certificates to persons who have pursued a course of study approved by the University under conditions laid down by the University;
- (3) To institute Professorships and Lectureships in the University and any other offices required by the University, and, subject to this our Charter, to appoint and remove the holders of such offices; to provide for instruction in such branches of learning as the University may think fit; and to make provision for research and for the advancement and dissemination of knowledge;

- (4) To institute and award Fellowships, Scholarships, Exhibitions, and Prizes ;
- (5) To accept from donors gifts of money, lands, or other property, for the foundation of Professorships, Lectureships, Scholarships or Studentships, or for the erection of buildings, or for the endowment of research, or for any other purpose or purposes connected with the University, upon such trusts and conditions as may be specified by such donors ;
- (6) To examine and inspect schools and other educational institutions and grant certificates of proficiency, and to provide such lectures and instruction for persons not being members of the University as the University may determine ; and to co-operate, by means of joint boards or otherwise, with other universities and authorities for the conduct of matriculation examinations, for the examination and inspection of schools and other academic institutions, and for the extension of University teaching and influence in academic matters, and for such other purposes as the University may from time to time determine ;
- (7) To license halls for the residence of students ;
- (8) To do all such other acts and things, whether incidental to the powers aforesaid or not, as may be authorized and may be requisite in order to farther the objects of the University as a Teaching and Examining Body ; and to cultivate and promote Arts, Science, and Learning.

#### IV.—VISITOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BELFAST.

We reserve to Ourselves, Our Heirs and Successors, to be the Visitor and Visitors of the University acting through such Board of Visitors as We may from time to time appoint, having regard to the nature of the case. In the exercise of the Visitorial Authority We and Our Heirs and Successors for the time being shall have the right from time to time, and in such manner as We or They shall think fit, to direct an inspection of the University, its buildings, laboratories, and general equipment, and also of the examinations, teaching, and other work done by the University.

Any President of the University or Professor or Lecturer of the University who is removed by the University from his office may appeal to the Visitor against such removal. The appeal shall be heard by a Board of four Visitors, and if they do not unanimously concur in such removal it shall not take effect.

#### V.—MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNIVERSITY.

The members of the University shall consist of every person who is an authority of the University, of every person who is a member of an authority of the University, and of the Matriculated Students of the University.

Women shall be eligible equally with men to be members of the University or of any authority of the University, and to hold any office or enjoy any advantages of the University.

#### VI.—AUTHORITIES OF THE UNIVERSITY.

The authorities of the University shall be the Chancellor, the Pro-Chancellors, the Vice-Chancellor, the Senate, the Academic Council, the General Board of Studies, the Faculties and Convocation.

#### VII.—THE CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY.

The Chancellor shall be the head and chief officer of the University, and shall, if present, be entitled to preside at meetings of the Senate and Convocation. He shall hold office during his life or until his resignation.

The first Chancellor of the University shall be the Right Honourable the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.C.V.O. Any succeeding Chancellor shall be elected by Convocation, and if a member of the Senate is elected to be Chancellor, his election shall create a casual vacancy in the Senate.

#### VIII.—THE PRO-CHANCELLORS.

There shall be two, and may be three, Pro-Chancellors, any one of whom may exercise the functions of the Chancellor during a vacancy in that office or in the absence of the Chancellor.

The first Pro-Chancellors shall be Sir Donald Currie, G.C.M.G., LL.D., and ; and shall hold office for five years.

Any succeeding Pro-Chancellors shall be persons elected by the Senate to hold office for five years; and if a member of the Senate is elected, his election shall create a casual vacancy in the Senate.

#### IX.—THE PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR.

The President of the University shall by virtue of his office be Vice-Chancellor and the principal academic officer of the University.

The first President of the University is the Reverend Thomas Hamilton, M.A., D.D., LL.D.

On the occasion of the first and any subsequent vacancy in the office of President the Senate shall elect, in accordance with Statutes to be made, a person to be President; and if a member of the Senate is elected, his election shall cause a casual vacancy in the Senate.

#### X.—THE SENATE.

(1) The Governing Body of the University referred to in the Irish Universities Act, 1908, shall be styled the Senate.

(2) We hereby nominate as the first Senate in accordance with that Act the persons named in the Schedule hereto.

(3) Any casual vacancy in the first Senate shall be filled by our further nomination.

(4) The University Senate shall, after the expiration of the period of office of the First Senate, be constituted as provided by the Irish Universities Act, 1908, namely:—

The Chancellor.

The Pro-Chancellors.

The President, who in virtue of his office is Vice-Chancellor.

Six persons nominated by the Crown, of whom one at least shall be a woman.

Six Professors of the University elected by the Professors.

Six Graduates of the University elected by the Graduates.

The Registrar.

The President for the time being of the Students' Representative Council, if a Graduate of the University.

Six persons representing the Benefactors.

The Lord Mayor for the time being of the City of Belfast.

The President for the time being of the Belfast Chamber of Commerce.

The Chairman for the time being of the Board of Management of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast.

One Principal of a Secondary School in Ulster, to be co-opted by the Senate.

Ex-officio members of the Senate shall be members so long as they hold qualifying office.

The members of the Senate who are not ex-officio members shall hold office for five years. The successor in the case of a casual vacancy shall be

appointed in like manner with his predecessor and shall hold office for the remainder of his term.

Retiring members are eligible for re-election.

(5) The acts or proceedings of the Senate shall not be invalidated by any vacancy among its members, or by any defect in the mode of appointment or election of any of the members.

#### XI.—POWERS OF THE SENATE.

The Senate shall be the governing body of the University, and shall direct the form, custody, and use of the common seal, and subject to the provisions of this Our Charter and the Statutes shall have power to regulate and determine all matters concerning the University, and shall exercise all the powers and discretions of the University.

In the exercise of the power to make Statutes and Regulations—

- (i) No Statute or Regulation shall be altered so as to change the status, powers, or constitution of any of the authorities of the University until such authority shall have had an opportunity of pronouncing an opinion upon the proposed change:
- (ii) Regulations relating to degrees and examinations shall not be made without report from the General Board of Studies and the Faculties.

The Senate shall have power to deprive any graduate of the University who, in the opinion of the Senate, is guilty of scandalous conduct, of any degree or degrees conferred by the University, and of all privileges enjoyed by him or her as such graduate aforesaid.

#### XII.—COMMITTEES.

The Senate shall appoint a Standing Committee consisting of the Vice-Chancellor, the Registrar, and not more than other members of the Senate, and may appoint such other committees for any particular purposes from amongst the members of the Senate as the Senate thinks fit.

Any matters referred by the Senate to a committee of the Senate shall, subject to any special directions of the Senate and to any special provisions in the Statutes, stand referred to the Standing Committee.

The Senate may appoint Advisory Committees consisting either wholly or partly of persons not being members of the Senate, and, subject to and in accordance with any provisions of the Statutes, may delegate to any committee so appointed such duties as the Senate thinks fit as regards financial, administrative, or other matters affecting the University, or any particular Faculty or Department, or the management or supervision of any buildings or property of the University.

#### XIII.—THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL, THE GENERAL BOARD OF STUDIES, AND THE FACULTIES.

(1) There shall be an Academic Council, consisting of the Vice-Chancellor and the Professors and Lecturers of the University, which shall have control of the internal academic affairs of the University under Statutes to be made and provided.

(2) There shall be a General Board of Studies, consisting of the Vice-Chancellor, the Professors and Lecturers of the University, such other teachers therein as may be co-opted by the Board, the recognised teachers in any institution which is for the time being affiliated to the University, and the external examiners to be appointed as provided by this Our Charter; and such General Board of Studies shall, subject to the approval of the

Senate, have control of the courses of study to be pursued in the University and of the courses to be prescribed for the various examinations.

(3) There shall be in the University the Faculties of Arts, Science, Law, and Medicine, with such other Faculties, whether formed by the sub-division of an existing Faculty or by the creation of a new Faculty or otherwise, as may from time to time be constituted by Statute.

(4) Each Faculty shall consist of the Vice-Chancellor, the Dean of the Faculty to be appointed annually by the members, the Professors and Lecturers in the subjects of the Faculty, and such other Professors or persons as may be provided by Statute; and each Faculty shall act as a Board of Studies for its own department, reporting to, and acting under the supervision of, the General Board of Studies.

#### XIV.—PROFESSORS, LECTURERS, AND RECOGNISED TEACHERS.

(1) Statutes of the University shall provide for the exercise by the Senate of any power vested in the University to appoint to Professorships or Lectureships, subject to the condition that the Senate must obtain and consider the advice of a Board of Censors, to be constituted, in manner determined by the Statutes, of the Vice-Chancellor, of Senators who are not Professors of the University, and of Professors of the University, including always a representative or representatives of the Faculty to which the vacant Professorship or Lectureship belongs.

(2) The University may in such manner, and on such conditions and for such time as may be prescribed by Statute, recognise individual teachers in affiliated institutions, who in the opinion of the University are giving instruction of a University standard in subjects approved for the purpose by the University, and these teachers shall be recognised teachers for the purposes of the Irish Universities Act, 1908, and this Our Charter.

#### XV.—CONVOCAATION.

The Convocation shall consist of the Chancellor, the Pro-Chancellors, the Vice-Chancellor, the remaining members of the Senate, the Professors, the Lecturers, and the registered graduates of the University.

The Senate shall have power to fix conditions of registration, and to prescribe the annual or other fee, or a composition therefor, which shall be necessary for registration.

#### XVI.—POWERS OF CONVOCAATION.

Convocation shall have the following powers:—

To elect the Chancellor of the University on any vacancy.

To elect its own Chairman, who shall, in the absence of the Chancellor, preside at its meetings:

To elect representatives of the Senate:

To discuss and pronounce an opinion on any matter whatsoever relating to the University, including any matters referred to them by the Senate.

#### XVII.—REGULATIONS AS TO PROCEDURE.

The Senate, the Academic Council, the General Board of Studies, the Faculties, Convocation, and subject to any directions of the Senate, committees of the Senate, may from time to time make regulations for governing their proceedings, subject to this Our Charter and to the Statutes and Regulations of the University.

## XVIII.—CONDITIONS AS TO GRANT OF DEGREES.

(1) Degrees and other academic distinctions may be granted—

- (a) To internal students who, under conditions laid down in the Statutes or Regulations, have pursued approved courses of study in the University, and have passed the prescribed examinations of the University :

Provided that the University may accept the examinations and periods of study passed by students of the University at other universities or places of learning, as equivalent to such examinations and periods of study in the University, as the University may determine, and may withdraw such acceptance at any time; and may also accept courses of study in any other institution which, in the opinion of the University, possesses the means of affording the proper instruction for such courses, and may withdraw such acceptance at any time; but the University shall in no case confer a Degree in Medicine, Surgery, or Midwifery upon any person who has not attended in the University for at least three years the course of study recognised for the degree by the University ;

- (b) To affiliated students who, under conditions laid down in the Statutes and Regulations, have pursued approved courses of study in affiliated institutions under teachers recognised for the purpose by the University, and have passed the prescribed examinations of the University.
- (c) To external students who, under conditions laid down in the Statutes and Regulations, have passed the prescribed examinations of the University :

Provided that external students shall not be admitted to Medical examinations, and that the power of the University to admit external students to a final examination for an initial Degree shall expire after the end of five years from the day appointed for the dissolution of Our Royal University of Ireland, and the power to admit to previous examinations shall expire after the shorter periods to be defined in the Statutes ;

- (d) To graduates of other universities whom the University may decide to admit to degrees of equal or similar rank ;
- (e) To persons who hold office in the University as Professors, Lecturers, or otherwise, or who shall have carried on independent research therein ;
- (f) To approved persons who shall be selected for honorary degrees.
- (2) Degrees representing proficiency in technical subjects shall not be conferred on students without proper security for testing the scientific or general knowledge underlying technical attainments.
- (3) All Degrees and other distinctions shall be conferred and held subject to any provisions which are or may be made in reference thereto by the Statutes or Regulations of the University.

## XIX.—EXAMINATIONS.

- (1) Statutes of the University shall provide for the manner of conducting the examinations of the University, including examinations for University



prizes and rewards; subject, so far as relates to examinations for Degrees, as follows:—

- (a) Provision shall be made for the appointment of at least one independent and external examiner, who shall not be a Professor, Lecturer, or other teacher of the University, in each subject or group of subjects studied by candidates for the Degrees of the University.
  - (b) Provision shall be made that the external examiners shall conduct all examinations for Degrees, not including examinations for matriculation; and also for enabling Professors and Lecturers of the University to be associated with the external examiners in any examinations held by them.
- (2) Due care and diligence shall be used by the University to equalise, so far as may be possible, the standards of knowledge and attainments implied in the Degrees conferred upon students presented by the University, upon students presented by any affiliated institutions, and upon external students so far as Degrees are conferred upon external students.

#### XX.—FEES.

The University may demand and receive such fees as the Statutes may from time to time appoint.

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS.

##### XXI.

Except as aforesaid, and except by way of prize, reward, special grant, or remuneration for services rendered or to be rendered in the past, present, or future respectively, the University shall not make any gift, division, or bonus in money unto or between any of its members.

##### XXII.

Any Supplemental or Amending Charter granted by Us, Our Heirs and Successors, and accepted by the Senate, shall be binding upon the University, its members, and all persons concerned.

##### XXIII.

In this Our Charter "Statutes" means the Statutes for the general government of the University made by the Belfast Commissioners pursuant to the Irish Universities Act, 1908, and any Statutes altering, amending, adding to, or repealing the same, or any of them, which may hereafter be made.

"Regulations" except where otherwise required by the context means regulations made pursuant to this Our Charter and the Statutes of the University.

##### XXIV.

The provisions of this Our Charter giving the powers of the University shall not come into operation until the day appointed under the Irish Universities Act, 1908, for the dissolution of Our Royal University of Ireland and Queen's College, Belfast, except so far as our Lieutenant General and General Governor of Ireland may by Order appoint.

But this provision shall not prevent the exercise of any power given, or the performance of any duty assigned, to the Governing Body of the

University under the Irish Universities Act, 1908, or the doing of anything which is incidental to the exercise of any such power or the performance of any such duty.

XXV.

Our Royal Will and Pleasure is that this Our Charter shall always be construed and adjudged in the most favourable and beneficial sense for the best advantage of the University, and the promotion of the objects of Our Charter, as well in all Our Courts as elsewhere, notwithstanding any non-recital, misrecital, uncertainty, or imperfection herein.

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## SCHEDULE.

## THE FIRST SENATE.

\*The Right Honourable the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.C.V.O., H.M. Lieutenant of the City of Belfast (Chancellor).

\*Sir Donald Currie, G.C.M.G., LL.D. (Pro-Chancellor).

\*Sir Robert Hart, Bart., G.C.M.G., M.A., LL.D. (not yet accepted) (Pro-Chancellor).

\*Another name (Pro-Chancellor).

\*The Rev. Thomas Hamilton, M.A., D.D., LL.D. (President of the University and Vice-Chancellor).

\*Johnson Symington, M.D., F.R.S., F.R.S.E. (Registrar).

\*Sir Robert Anderson, J.P. (The Lord Mayor of Belfast).

\*Sir Charles Brett (The President of the Belfast Chamber of Commerce).

\*Sir William Crawford, J.P. (the Chairman of the Board of Management of the Royal Victoria Hospital).

The Honourable Mr. Justice William Houston  
Dodd, M.A. - - - - -

A lady not yet named - - - - -

Peter R. O'Connell, M.D., High Sheriff of  
Belfast - - - - -

John Robinson Leebody, M.A., D.Sc. - - -

The Right Honourable Robert Young - -

John Cooke, H.M. Lieutenant of the County  
of Londonderry - - - - -

Persons interested  
in Education.

\*Samuel Dill, M.A., LL.D., LL.D. - - -

\*John Park, M.A., LL.D. - - - - -

\*Edmund A. Lettis, D.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.S.E. - -

\*Maurice F. Fitzgerald, B.A., Assoc. M.I.C.E. -

\*Sir William Whitla, M.A., M.D., LL.D. - -

\*Thomas Sinclair, M.D., M.Ch., F.R.C.S. Eng. -

Professors.

Sir Hiram Shaw Wilkinson, LL.D. - - -

His Honour Judge Shaw, K.C., M.A., LL.D. -

Joseph Larmor, M.A., D.Sc., Sec.R.S. - -

The Rev. Matthew Leitch, M.A., D.Litt., D.D. -

John Walton Browne, B.A., M.D. - - -

Peter Redfern, M.D., F.R.C.S. Eng. - - -

Graduates.

The Lord Dunleath, D.L. - - - - -

Sir Otto Jaffé, LL.D., J.P. - - - - -

Henry Musgrave, D.L. - - - - -

Frederick Purser, M.A., F.T.C.D. - - -

Robert Kyle Knox, LL.D. - - - - -

Robert T. Martin, B.A. - - - - -

Benefactors.

\*Cecil Reginald Crymble, B.A. (President of the Students' Representative Council).

Robert Millar Jones, M.A. (Principal of the Royal Academical Institution, Belfast).

Our nomination in the case of the persons whose names are marked with an asterisk has effect only while those persons hold the offices a description of which is attached to their names; and if any such person ceases to hold the office, a vacancy occurs to be filled by Our further nomination.

